

Fire Safety in your Home

Tips For Fire Prevention

There are some simple and practical things you can do to prevent a fire in your home.

Cooking

- Never leave cooking on the stove unattended
- Never cook with gas bottles inside your home
- Consider getting a fire blanket for your kitchen to put out any stove-top fires

Electrical items

- Never overload powerpoints or powerboards
- Regularly check electrical leads and small appliances for damage and faults
- Never use faulty electrical leads or appliances
- When not in use, turn off electrical appliances at the powerpoint
- Turn off electric blankets and heaters when not at home and before going to bed
- Store electric blankets safely – roll, don't fold
- Clean your dryer lint filter before each use
- Ensure adequate air flow and don't leave your dryer turned on when not at home
- Do a final check before you leave your home



Candles and Cigarettes

- Keep candles away from things that burn; curtains, clothing, bedding, and tablecloths
- Never leave candles unattended; blow them out when you leave the room
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles; some look and smell like real candles
- During power outages, use a flashlight instead of candles
- Extinguish cigarettes properly and never smoke in bed
- Keep matches and lighters in a safe place

Heaters

- Never use outdoor heaters with gas bottles inside your home
- Keep everything at least one metre away from your heater
- Install and use your heater as per the manufacturer's instructions
- If you suspect a fault, have your heater serviced or replaced
- Always supervise young children in rooms with working heaters

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

All properties managed by the Women's Housing Company have a working smoke alarm that meets Australian Standards. This includes leasehold properties.

If you are hearing or visually impaired, you can have a modified smoke alarm installed.

Smoke alarms are inspected at least once per year. You must provide access to your home for contractors to conduct this important check.

You can test your smoke alarm anytime by pressing and holding the button until it beeps.

If your smoke alarm beeps continuously, it may be faulty or need a new battery. If you think your smoke alarm is not working, call us immediately so we can repair or replace it.



Make a Fire Escape Plan

If there is a fire in your home, being prepared with a Fire Escape Plan can prevent a tragedy.

Smoke from a fire can make you confused and unable to see.

Draw your escape plan on paper and discuss and practice the plan with your household members.

Make sure windows and doors on your escape plan can be quickly opened if required. Make sure keys to locked doors are readily accessible.

If possible, know two ways out of every room.



Get Out and Stay Out

If there is a fire, escape as quickly as possible.

Phone Triple Zero (000). Never assume that someone else has called.

Do not attempt to fight the fire.

Do not go back inside to save your things. Possessions can be replaced; people can't.

If there is smoke, cover your nose and mouth with a cloth and keep close to the floor.

If a fire starts in your home or unit, leave straight away and close the front door to contain the fire.

If a fire starts in another unit, or in a common area, leave the building if it is safe.

Never use a lift. Use the nearest stairs to reach ground level.

If it is not safe to leave, call Triple Zero (000) and tell them where you are. Stay in your unit and close your doors and windows to keep smoke out.

Fire and Rescue NSW will advise when you can re-enter a fire damaged property.

In most cases, Fire and Rescue NSW will tell us when a fire has occurred. We will contact you to discuss how we can help.

More Information

This factsheet provides a general summary only. For full details, please check the Fire and Rescue NSW website: <https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/>